

Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's latest prior art rejection is incorrect and that all the pending claims are patentable. Applicant traverses the rejection based on the following arguments.

With regard to Culbert, the Examiner again acknowledges that "Culbert does not compare a battery voltage with the reference voltage and also does not generate a low voltage alarm when reference voltage is slightly higher than the battery voltage" (present Office Action, page 3, lines 1-3).

Furthermore, contrary to the Examiner's analysis, and as explained in detail in Applicant's June 30 Response, Culbert does not teach or suggest:

upon detecting power-on of said external communication terminal,
detecting a battery voltage of said personal assistant (Applicant's
independent claim 1),

and

upon detecting power-on of said external communication terminal,
detecting a battery supply ability of said personal assistant (Applicant's
independent claim 7)

In fact, the Examiner does not even attempt to explain how Culbert allegedly teaches these features, but merely states that Culbert teaches "upon detecting power-on of said external communication terminal ..., supply electric power to an external terminal" (present Office Action, page 2, last 4 lines). However, even if Culbert does disclose supplying electric power to an external terminal upon detection of power-on of the external terminal, nowhere does Culbert disclose or suggest "detecting a battery voltage of said personal assistant" (claim 1) or "detecting a power supply ability of said personal assistant" (claim 7) upon detection of the power-on of the

external terminal. Likewise, Shyr, directed to power management of devices that use plural smart batteries, does not teach or suggest these claimed detecting steps.

In any case, the Examiner relies on Shyr to supply only the acknowledged deficiencies of Culbert. In particular, the Examiner alleges that Shyr “teaches a controller ... which compares a battery voltage with the reference voltage and also [does (sic)] generate a low voltage alarm when reference voltage is slightly higher [than (sic)] the battery voltage”¹ (present Office Action, page 3, lines 3-7).

Shyr discloses a smart battery controller for use in electronic devices which have more than one smart battery. In particular, Shyr’s discloses a “bus-snooper circuit [which] permits the controller to independently monitor the bus for battery-condition alarm-messages The controller may respond to such messages by selecting a different battery” (see Shyr, Abstract). As explained in Shyr, smart battery provides “estimates about end of discharge, electrical capacity remaining below a preset threshold value, and time remaining until discharge below a preset threshold value” to a power management routine (see Shyr, col. 2, lines 19-29).

That is, in Shyr, smart battery supplies information as to **its own state** regardless of power consumption of an external communication terminal, so that “a smart battery selector ... is capable of automatically selecting a particular battery to supply the device’s electrical power” (col. 4, lines 19-24; see col. 4, line 64 through col. 5, line 12). Shyr does not teach or suggest “comparing said battery voltage with a reference voltage, said reference voltage being slightly

¹ Clearly, the Examiner intended to allege that Shyr’s controller does generate low voltage alarm.

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higher than an inoperable voltage of **said personal digital assistant**" (claim 1, emphasis added), and does not teach or suggest "calculating a difference between said power supply ability and a power consumption of **said external communication terminal**" (claim 7, emphasis added).

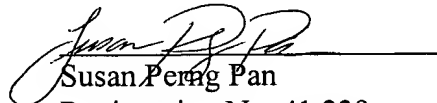
Since, the combination of Culbert and Shyr does not teach or suggest at least the above-noted steps of Applicant's claimed power management method as recited in independent claims 1 and 7, Applicant's claims 1 and 7, as well as their respective dependent claims 4, and 8-10 would not have been obvious from Culbert and Shyr.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that claims 1, 2, 4 and 7-12 are in condition for allowance. Therefore it is respectfully requested that the subject application be passed to issue at the earliest possible time. The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary.

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee, except for the Issue Fee, for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,

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